

Trade Notes...

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U.S. Hazelnut Exports Skyrocket

During the first six months of fiscal year 2002, U.S. exports of hazelnuts reached 20,258 metric tons, up 100 percent compared to the same period last year. The estimated value was \$27 million. For this period, China was by far the largest customer for U.S. hazelnuts, importing nearly 15,000 tons with a value of \$18 million. Germany was the second largest market for U.S. hazelnuts, importing 1,400 tons valued at nearly \$2 million.

Ethnic Foods Find Niche Market in France

France is the leading importer of ethnic foods in Europe, accounting for a third of Europe's \$3 billion a year in purchases. There are market opportunities in France for U.S. ethnic foods, including American Indian, Tex-Mex, Cajun—currently accounting for 2 percent of the sector—and Californian. French consumers are looking for exotic cuisine. In Paris, one out of every two new restaurants is based on a world cuisine concept.

United States One Of World's Most Open Economies

A recent report from the U.S. International Trade Commission documents the relative openness of the American economy. According to the report, *Economic Effects of Significant U.S. Import Restraints*, the average U.S. tariff on goods imports was 1.71 percent in 1999, among the world's lowest. The report estimates the economic gain to the United States from removing all remaining U.S. trade barriers to be \$14.5 billion annually. The United States is one of the few countries that issue public reports on their own domestic trade barriers. The commission updates the import restraints report periodically, to help set an example for transparency in international trade. The report is available on the Web at: www.usitc.gov/default.htm

USDA To Host American Café at Trade Show in Hungary

FAS will host an American Café at the Foodapest 2002 trade show in Budapest, Hungary, November 26-29. At the American Café, located in the U.S. pavilion, a company's products can be displayed without the expense of a full booth. For a fee of \$350, FAS staff will display and distribute sample products to potential customers. Hungary has 10 million consumers and a \$7,400 annual per capita income. The gross domestic product grows about 4 percent annually, and Hungary imports at least \$44 million in agricultural goods from the United States. In April 2002, Hungary reduced or suspended tariffs on key U.S. agricultural and industrial products, which could mean an additional \$180 million worth of exports annually. For information on exhibiting products at the American Café, or for more information on other USDA-endorsed shows, contact Sharon Cook, FAS Trade Show Office. Tel.: (202) 720-3425; Fax: (202) 690-4374; E-mail: Sharon.Cook@fas.usda.gov